Policing of Railways

3017. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that several High Power Committees have agreed that the present system of policing on the railways by the State Government's in their States' territory totally failed to prevent and detect pilferage of the railway properties and looting of passengers and their belongings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government railway police lack in technical knowledge of investigation; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government, on the whole issue and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railway Reforms Committee were of the view that problems of Government Railway Police are its development on the 'Provincial System' and lack of modernisation.

(c) Government Railway Police, which is under State Government provides escorts on fast/superfast/Mail/Express trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force which is under Department of Railway also assists Government Railway Police in this task.

The Central Government is providing financial assistance for modernisation of police forces in the States.

Recruitments in the ArmedForces

3018. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the manner of recruitments in the armed forces;

(b) whether it has any bearing upon the status of force as an armed force of the Union; and

(c) in what manner recruitments in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Central Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force are made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The manner of recruitment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police, Cenral Industrial Security Force and the Railway Protection Force is explained in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 106) In keeping with the importance of the Armed Forces, detailed physical and medical examination is conducted besides adhering to requisite educational standards in making selections for recruitment in the Armed Forces.

Deciding Factor for Armed Force of the Union

3019. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what the various tests which have been laid down for application to any organisation for treating any force as an Armed Force of the Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): According to the Supreme Court, the expression "Armed Forces of the Union" must be given its ordinary meaning and would not be limited to the Military, Naval and Air Force. Any other force constituted as an Armed Force would be included. Consequently, any force of the Union which has been

declared as an Armed Force by the Act by which it is created would be one such Armed Force.

People asked to prove citzenship in Assam

3020. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who have been asked to prove their citizenship in Assam till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what was the criteria laid down by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that in the names of foreigner, the people of Assam belonging to minority communities are being harassed; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect them from further harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Under Section 6A(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 persons of Indian origin who arrived in State of Assam before 1st January, 1966 and who have been ordinarily resident in Assam since the dates of their entry shall be deemed to be the citizens of India from 1st January, 1966.

Persons or Indian origin who came to Assam on or after 1st January, 1966 but before 25th March, 1971 and have been ordinarily resident in Assam since then and have been detected as foreigners are covered by Section 6A(3) and have to register themselves with the registering authority. Cases of such persons have to be referred for the opinion of the Tribunal as regards their status. As per imformation received from the Government of Assam, upto the end of June; 1986; in such cases 16,757 enquiries were initiated and out of these 678 enquiries had been completed and referred to the Foreigners Tribunals.

(c) and (d) There have been complaints of large scale harassment of minorities in the name of detection. Central Government have also received reports of indiscriminate issue of notices by police in Cachar and Karimganj districts including to some members of well known families residing for generations asking them to prove their citizenship. These complaints/ reports have been referred to the State Government for appropriate remedial action.

Construction of the Post Office building in Mangaldai, Assam

3021. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had purchased a plot of ten bighas at the cost of Rs. 3 lakhs 40 thousands at Mangaldai in Assam for construction of a post office building;

(b) whether construction of the said building had not been taken up till October, 1986, and even the wall around the plot gives way due to defective construction; and

(c) whether officers from the Head Office of the Postal circle pay regular visits to the site but have failed to do anything in this regard even after the lapse of more than three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. A plot of land measuring ten bighas was purchased from Government of Assam at Mangaldai in May, 1985 at a cost of Rs 3,39,067.50.

(b) and (c) Brick work for the boundary wall has been completed. RCC pillars and barbed wire are under construction.